AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 11, line 23 with the following amended paragraph:

The Ir alloy chip 31a installed on the end of the center electrode 30 and the ground electrode 40 are preferably made of an Ir alloy containing 50 Wt % or more of Iridium (Ir). For example, a material containing a main component of more than 50 Wt % of Ir and an additive of at least one of Rh (rhodium), Pt (platinum), Os (osmium), Ni, Ru (ruthenium), Pd (palladium), and W (tungsten) (referred to as an Ir-10Rh below). In this embodiment, the Ir alloy chips 31a and the ground electrode 40 is each made of material containing 90 Wt % of Ir and 10 Wt % of Rh. The Ir alloy chip 31a is made of a disc having a diameter of 2.4 mm and a thickness of 1.4 mm. The ground electrode 40 is made of a plate which is 2.5 mm wide W, 9.0 mm long L, and 1.0 mm thick t.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 13, line 13 with the following amended paragraph:

Each comparative sample of the spark plug of FIGS. 14(a) to 14(c) had the base member 41 made of Inconel (trade mark). The base member 41 was joined to the metal shell 10 by the resistance welding. The Ir alloy chip 42 was 2.5 mm wide W, 5.0 mm long L, and 1.0 mm thick t and joined to the base member 41 by the laser welding. The Ir alloy chip 31a was the same as that in this embodiment.